

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Previously presented) A method for sharing user information, comprising:

receiving from a user an identification of a level of access that is to be extended to a web site host;

assigning a user code that is pertinent to the identified level of access;

providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;

receiving from the web site host a request for information concerning the user and the user code that was provided to the web site host;

determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user code comprises a transient key.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of access comprises comparing the user code provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting user information comprises transmitting user information from a centralized repository which stores user information for a plurality of users.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting user information comprises transmitting user profile information while withholding personal information about the user.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a web site host with the user code comprises automatically providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the user code is automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a web site host with the user code comprises providing the user code to the web site host that is manually entered by the user at the web site.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a personalized web site based upon the user information that is transmitted to the web site host.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A system for sharing user information, comprising:

means for assigning a user code that is pertinent to a level of access selected by a user that is to be extended to a web site host;

means for providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;

means for receiving the user code from the web site host;

means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

means for transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the means for determining the level of access comprises means for comparing the user code

provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the means for providing the user code to the web site host comprises means for automatically providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the means for providing the user code to the web site host comprises means for providing the user code that is manually entered by the user at the web site.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access comprises receiving selection of one of an anonymous mode in which only profile information and no personal information is provided, and a full disclosure mode in which profile information and personal information is provided.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access further comprises receiving user selection of a category of information to share.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving user selection of a category comprises receiving user selection of at least one of a personal category, a business category, and a financial category.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning a user code comprises assigning a first code pertinent to an initial level of access to be provided to the web site host and a second code pertinent to a deeper level of access that can be manually provided by the user if desired.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein providing the user code comprises automatically providing the first user code to the web site host when the user visits the web site, and providing the second user code to the web site host if the user chooses to so provide the second user code.

27. (Previously presented) A method for sharing user information, comprising:

receiving at an e-service various user information that is to be distributed to web site hosts visited by the user, the user information separated into sets each associated with a given levels of access to user information;

assigning with the e-service a user code to each level of access and therefore each information set;

receiving at the e-service from the user an indication of a level of access that is to be granted to all web sites visited by the user;

receiving at the e-service a user code that has been provided to a web site host by the user;

determining with the e-service a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

transmitting from the e-service to the web site host user information that pertains to the user code received from the web site host.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the user code was automatically provided to the web site host upon the user first visiting a web site hosted by the web site host.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the user code was automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the web site host generating a personalized web site for the user based upon the user information that is transmitted to the web site host from the e-service.

31. (Previously presented) A system for sharing user information, comprising:

means for receiving at an e-service various user information that is to be distributed to web site hosts visited by the user, the user information separated into sets each associated with a given levels of access to user information;

means for assigning with the e-service a user code to each level of access and therefore each information set;

means for receiving at the e-service from the user an indication of a level of access that is to be granted to all web sites visited by the user;

means for receiving at the e-service a user code that has been provided to a web site host by the user;

means for determining with the e-service a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

means for transmitting from the e-service to the web site host user information that pertains to the user code received from the web site host.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the user code was automatically provided to the web site host upon the user first visiting a web site hosted by the web site host.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the user code was automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising means provided by the web site host for generating a personalized web site for the user based upon the user information that is transmitted to the web site host from the e-service.